

## PASSPORT ASSISTANCE

Senator Nelson has launched an investigation of the State Department's handling of the passport backlog. In the meantime, he and his staff are working to help Floridians with their passport requests when difficulties arise.

**Traveler's Notice:** As of June 8, U.S. citizens traveling to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda who have applied for but not yet received passports can enter and depart from the U.S. by air with a government photo ID and Department of State proof of application for a passport through Sept. 30, 2007. However, this accommodation does not mean that Americans are exempt from meeting the entry requirements of individual countries. Americans traveling to those countries must verify the specific entry requirements for that country before departure. Please check <a href="http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\_pa\_tw/cis/cis\_1765.html">http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\_pa\_tw/cis/cis\_1765.html</a> for the entry requirements for the country you are visiting.

To determine if you need a passport for your travel, please consult <a href="http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc">http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc</a> 2223.html. For example, those departing from the United States on a cruise ship for a round trip in the Caribbean, are not required to travel with a passport at this time. Please also check your destination country's entry requirements at <a href="http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\_pa\_tw/cis/cis\_1765.html">http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\_pa\_tw/cis/cis\_1765.html</a>. For example, even though a passport is no longer required for travel to Mexico, U.S. citizens must present proper identification upon arriving in the country.

If you have not received your passport 48 hours prior to your departure, you can travel to the Miami Passport Agency to reapply and receive a passport on site.

The Miami Passport Agency is located in the Claude Pepper Federal Office Building at 51 SW First Avenue, 3rd Floor, Miami, FL 33130-1680. To download an application, get directions or obtain additional information, visit

http://travel.state.gov/passport/about/agencies/agencies 910.html.

If you are traveling within 48 hours and decide to travel to the Miami Passport office, you will be starting the application process over. Therefore, you will need all of the materials required when the application was first completed, including but not limited to - a certified copy of your birth certificate or an original Naturalization Certificate, a government issued photo I.D., 2 color passport photos, new application and all fees required. Please check the requirements on line for your specific situation. Under age children may require additional documentation.

If you require any help in obtaining a passport please <u>click here</u> to fill out a request for assistance form and fax to our Orlando office at 407-872-7165. You may also request help by calling the Orlando office at 407-872-7161 or toll-free at 888-671-4091.